No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/03/24 : LOC-HAK-548-5-21-5

TOP SECRET

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TOHAK 103

INFO ITEMS

FEBRUARY 12, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ITEMS

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SITUATION IN INDOCHINA: THE NUMBER OF CEASE-FIRE INCIDENTS REMAINED RELATIVELY UNCHANGED AS 31 MAJOR AND 140 MINOR VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED. TOTAL CASUALTIES YESTERDAY WERE 300 ENEMY KILLED AND 64 SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

OSD review completed

IN MILITARY REGION 1, ENEMY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL. MARINE UNITS REPORTED LIGHT SHELLINGS AND GROUND CONTACTS AS THEY CLEARED ENEMY INFILTRATORS FROM REAR AREAS. FOR THE SECOND DAY IN A ROW, ENEMY SHELLINGS IN THE AIRBORNE AREA REACHED 900 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND 130-MM ARTILLERY. THE 1ST AND 3RD ARVN DIVISIONS REPORTED ONLY LIGHT ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THEIR AREAS. THE ATTACK BY THE 2ND ARVN DIVISION TOWARD SA HUYNH MADE PROGRESS AS ARVN UNITS ADVANCED THROUGH THE HILLS WEST OF THE TOWN AND SOUTH ALONG ROUTE 1.

NSA review completed

ACTIVITY IN MILITARY REGION 2 AGAIN CENTERED IN PLEIKU PROVINCE. FIFTY-THREE ENEMY WERE KILLED DURING TWO ENEMY-INITIATED CONTACTS NEAR THE DISTRICT TOWN OF THANH AN. ROUTE 14 REMAINS CLOSED NEAR THE BORDER OF KONTUM AND PLEIKU PROVINCES. A RESUPPLY CONVOY FROM PLEIKU TO KONTUM IS WAITING AT FIRE SUPPORT BASE 41 FOR THE ROADBED BE REOPENED. ELSEWHERE ALONG ROUTE 14, THE ROAD IS SECURE SOUTH FROM PELIKU TO MY THACH AND PHU NHON, WHILE IT IS CLOSED IN THE VICINITY OF BUON HO DISTRICT TOWN IN DARLAC PROVINCE. FOUR HAMLETS REMAIN CONTESTED IN DARLAC PROVINCE. THERE WERE SEVERAL LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS AND SHELLINGS REPORTED ALONG ROUTE 1, SOUTH OF HOAI NHON, IN BINH DINH PROVINCE. ACTIVITY IN THE REMAINDER OF THE REGION WAS AT A LOW LEVEL.

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COMBAT ACTIVITY IN MILITARY REGION 3 REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT ENEMY GROUND CONTACT WAS REPORTED IN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE. THERE WERE NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM A SHELLING ATTACK CONSISTING OF 40 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND RECOILLESS RIFLEFIRE FIVE MILES SOUTHEAST OF AN LOC.

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IN MILITARY REGION 4, GROUND ACTIVITY REMAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL. THE MOST COMMON ENEMY TACTIC HAS BEEN HARASSMENT OF OUTPOSTS, TROOP POSITIONS, AND POPULATION CENTERS. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ATTACK REPORTED WAS A 100-ROUND MORTAR ATTACK AGAINST ARVN POSITIONS NEAR CAI CAI. ALL LINES OF COMMUNICATION ARE REPORTED OPEN IN THE REGION. THERE ARE NINE HAMLETS IN ENEMY CONTROL IN CHUONG THIEN AND KIEN PHONG PROVINCES.

IN LAOS, SHARP FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE SOUTH. NORTH VIETNAMESE GROUND ATTACKS AND SHELLINGS ON FEBRUARY 10 DISPERSED AT LEAST FIVE OF THE EIGHT DISPIRITED IRREGULAR BATTALIONS WEST OF SARAVANE. MOST OF THESE UNITS ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO REGROUP IN NEW BLOCKING POSITIONS ABOUT 15 MILES EAST OF KHONG SEDONE. TO THE SOUTH, THE COMMUNISTS APPEAR TO BE TRYING TO SECURE PAKSONG AND TO LOCATE REMAINING GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN THE AREA. GOVERNMENT COMMANDERS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE LULL TO REASSEMBLE SOME OF THEIR FORCES ALONG ROUTE 23, ABOUT FIVE MILES WEST OF THE TOWN. MEANWHILE, A 1,400-MAN IRREGULAR FORCE CONTINUES TO PUSH SLOWLY TOWARD PAKSONG FROM THATENG. THE MOVEMENT OF THESE IRREGULARS TOWARD THE TOWN MAY FORCE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TO ABANDON FOR THE MOMENT PLANS TO ELIMINATE THE GOVERNMENT'S FOOTHOLD ON THE WESTERN BOLOVENS.

MILITARY ACTIVITY IS AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL IN THE CENTRAL PANHANDLE. NORTH VIETNAMESE PATROLS HAVE PUSHED THROUGH MUONG PHALANE TO TEST IRREGULAR DEFENSES JUST TO THE WEST WHILE THE BULK OF ENEMY FORCES -- ELEMENTS OF AS MANY AS FOUR REGIMENTS -- ATTEMPT TO MOVE FORWARD FOR RENEWED COMBAT.

YESTERDAY, U.S. PILOTS FLEW 315 TACTICAL AIR SORTIES. IN ADDITION, 69 B-52 STRIKES WERE FLOWN, STRIKING 32 TARGETS NEAR THE PLAINE DES JARRES, TCHEPONE, AND SARAVANE.

IN CAMBODIA, THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO ASSIGN TWO BATTALIONS FROM THE PHNOM PENH AREA TO CLEAR A SHORT SECTION OF ROUTE 1 ABOUT 15 MILES SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL THAT WAS CLOSED BY A KHMER INSURGENT-PROBING ATTACK ON FEBRUARY 10. NORTH OF NEAK LUONG, THE SITUATION AT BANAM ON ROUTE 15 REMAINS CONFUSED. SOME INSURGENT ELEMENTS APPARENTLY ARE IN THE TOWN, WHILE OTHERS ARE STILL LOCATED ALONG ROUTE 15 BETWEEN BANAM AND NEAK LUONG. CAMBODIAN ARMY COMMAND AND CONTROL PROBLEMS REPORTEDLY ARE COMPLICATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO FORCE THE INSURGENTS OUT OF THIS SECTOR. IN THE NORTH, COMMUNIST PRESSURE AGAINST KOMPONG THOM IS CONTINUING. AN INTERCEPTED GOVERNMENT MESSAGE INDICATES THAT ON FEBRUARY 11 THE COMMUNISTS OVERRAN A POSITION JUST SOUTH OF THE TOWN, KILLING OR CAPTURING MOST OF THE CAMBODIAN BATTALION THAT HAD BEEN DEFENDING IT. GOVERNMENT STRENGTH AT KOMPONG THOM ITSELF NOW CONSISTS OF SOME 4,000 TROOPS.

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POWS RELEASED AT LOC NINH: THE FIRST AMERICAN PRISONERS RELEASED IN SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE WERE FLOWN OUT OF LOC NINH TOWN NORTH OF SAIGON TODAY. A U.S. COMMAND SPOKESMAN SAID THE FIRST AMERICAN PRISONERS LIFTED OFF FROM LOC NINH AT 6:40 A.M. EST.

CEASE-FIRE DEVELOPMENTS: THE COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF THE FOUR PARTY JOINT COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 10 PROTESTED THE DEMONSTRATION AT BAN ME THUOT (WHICH REPORTEDLY INJURED TWO DRV REPRESENTATIVES) AND ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION OF FURTHER MOVEMENT PENDING GVN-U.S. REASSURANCES AGAINST FURTHER SUCH INCIDENTS. (NEVERTHELESS, SOME MOVEMENT OF PRG PERSONNEL CONTINUES.) THEY ARE ALSO INSISTING ON A NUMBER OF RIGHTS CONCERNING FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, PRESS CONTACTS, ETC. THE GVN HAS BEEN KEEPING THE MOST RECENT ANTI-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATIONS UNDER CONTROL. 25X1

[redacted]

URUGUAY: PRESIDENT BORDABERRY CAPITULATED TO REBELLIOUS ARMY AND AIR FORCE COMMANDERS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF DEFENSE MINISTER FRANCESE, AT HIS REPEATED REQUESTS. FRANCESE'S REMOVAL WAS DEMANDED BY THE FOLLOWERS OF AIR FORCE COMMANDER PEREZ AND FORMER ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL MARTINEZ. THE DISSIDENT MILITARY LEADERS HAD BEEN IN REBELLION FOR MORE THAN 24 HOURS WHEN THE PRESIDENT FINALLY YIELDED. THE SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED FOLLOWING THE COLLECTIVE RESIGNATION OF THE 11-MAN CABINET. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE CRISIS ON FRIDAY,

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ARMY AND AIR FORCE TROOPS OCCUPIED RADIO AND TELEVISION STATIONS AND BROADCAST COMMUNIQUES REJECTING COMMUNISM AND OUTLINING PROPOSALS FOR COMBATTING INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT. WHILE THE PRESIDENT HAS GAINED SOME IMMEDIATE RELIEF FROM THE GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS, IT IS UNCERTAIN HOW LONG IT WILL LAST.

EARLY TODAY, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT ADMIRAL ZORRILLA HAD SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE NAVY. CAPTAIN OLAZABAL HAS TAKEN OVER THE POST.

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